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10/580,309	05/25/2006	Atsushi Oohashi	Q94458	4060
23373	7590	03/17/2009	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC			MOK, ALEX W	
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/580,309	OOHASHI, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALEX W. MOK	2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12-22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Acknowledgement is made of Amendment filed December 3, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashihsara et al. (US Patent No.: 6236557), and further in view of Hilterbrick et al. (US Patent No.: 3538361).

For claim 12, Kashihsara et al. teach an automotive alternator voltage control apparatus comprising an annular slinger (reference numeral 16, figure 10); a brush holder (reference numeral 17) that is disposed so as to extend radially from an outer peripheral wall surface of said slinger and that is formed such that a brush insertion aperture is open at an inner peripheral wall surface of said slinger (see figure 10); positive electrode and negative electrode brushes that are inserted into said brush insertion aperture so as to line up in an axial direction of said slinger and be movable in a radial direction of said slinger (reference numeral 18); a voltage regulator (reference numeral 21) which would inherently have an integrated circuit (IC) on which a circuit is formed that controls an automotive alternator output voltage; and a surge absorber

(reference numeral 30) that absorbs surges arising due to output voltage control by said voltage regulator. Kashihara et al. also teach the voltage regulator and the surge absorber being near the side of the brush holder, which would constitute these components being alongside the brush holder on the first circumferential side (see figure 10). Kashihara et al. do not explicitly teach a connector for input and output from and to an external device, the connector being disposed radially outside said slinger alongside said brush holder on a first circumferential side of said brush holder, nor the slinger, the brush holder, and the connector being constituted by a resin body that is formed integrally using an insulating resin.

Hilterbrick et al. teach a connector for input and output comprising a terminal block (reference numeral 100, figure 8). The terminal block can also be considered to be near the brush holder, i.e. disposed alongside the brush holder on the first circumferential side (figure 8).

It would have been obvious to have this configuration, since a person of ordinary skill would have been able to rearrange these components and have them disposed radially outside the slinger for the purpose of increasing the cooling efficiency, and Kashihara et al. already disclose a resin part (reference numeral 15) that connects these components (see figure 10), and a person of ordinary skill would have been able to use this resin to integrally form these components in order to suppress temperature increases in the invention.

For claim 13, it would have been obvious to have apertures for the voltage regulator and the surge absorber, since Kashihara et al. already disclose the resin body

shown in figure 10 with the voltage regulator and surge absorber in the resin body, and a person of ordinary skill would have to form housing apertures in the resin body for the voltage regulator and surge absorber. A person of ordinary skill also would have been able to line up the voltage regulator, the surge absorber and the connector in a single column in a radial direction, since this would involve a mere change in the location of the components, and this configuration would have been obvious for the purpose of increasing the area of a heat sink.

For claim 14, it would have been obvious to have the voltage regulator housing aperture and the surge absorber housing aperture be formed in the resin body so it would be open at a first axial end of the slinger, since Kashihara et al. already disclose the resin body with the regulator and the surge absorber, and a person of ordinary skill easily would have been able to form an opening at the first axial end so that the voltage regulator and the surge absorber can be housed in the housing apertures from the first axial end.

For claim 17, it would have been obvious to have a voltage regulator housing aperture be formed on the resin body, since Kashihara et al. already disclose the voltage regulator on the resin body (figure 10), and a person of ordinary skill would have to form housing apertures for the voltage regulator, and it also would have been obvious to have the surge absorber disposed so it would overlap with the voltage regulator and the connector, since this would involve a mere change in the location of the components, and this configuration would have been obvious for the purpose of increasing the area of a heat sink.

4. Claims 15, 16, 18, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashihara et al. and Hilterbrick et al. as applied to claims 14 and 17 above, and further in view of Adachi et al. (US Patent No.: 5550415).

For claim 15, Kashihara et al. and Hilterbrick et al. disclose the claimed invention except for insert conductors being insert molded at the first axial end and constituting the voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal, and connecting terminals on the IC circuit and the surge absorber. It would have been obvious to have conductors inserted into the resin body, since Adachi et al. disclose conductors (reference numeral 5a, figure 3) which are inserted into an insulating resin (reference numeral 13), and a person of ordinary skill in the art can modify this and have the conductors constitute a voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal and have them connected to the voltage regulator and the surge absorber at the first axial end for the purpose of ensuring proper connecting configurations.

For claim 16, it would have been obvious to have a resin tub disposed in resin body, since Adachi et al. disclose a resin tub (figure 3), and a person of ordinary skill would have been able to modify this so that it would surround the voltage regulator housing aperture, the surge absorber housing aperture, the voltage regulator connecting terminal, and the surge absorber connecting terminal, and also have the resin (reference numeral 13) embed the connection portion between the voltage regulator and the voltage regulator connecting terminal and the connection portion

between the surge absorber and the surge absorber connecting terminal, for the purpose of ensuring the insulation of the terminals for the voltage regulator and the surge absorber.

For claim 18, Kashihara et al. and Hilterbrick et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the voltage regulator housing aperture being formed at the first axial end and having a plurality of insert conductors being insert molded into the resin body and constituting the voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal, and also connecting terminals for the IC circuit and the surge absorber. It would have been obvious to have conductors inserted into the resin body, since Adachi et al. disclose conductors (reference numeral 5a, figure 3) which are inserted into an insulating resin (reference numeral 13), and a person of ordinary skill in the art can modify this and have the conductors constitute a voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal and have them connected to the voltage regulator and the surge absorber at the first axial end for the purpose of ensuring proper connecting configurations.

For claim 22, it would have been obvious to have the voltage regulator housing aperture being formed on the resin body so as to be open at the first axial end, since Kashihara et al. already disclose the voltage regulator on the resin body as explained for claim 17 above, but does not specifically disclose the IC being constituted by a single-chip IC in which an IC chip is joined directly to an exposed surface of a heat sink that is disposed inside said voltage regulator housing aperture; a plurality of insert conductors being insert molded into said resin body so as to be exposed around an

outer periphery of said voltage regulator housing aperture and constituting a voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal; said IC chip being connected to said voltage regulator connecting terminal by means of a bonding wire; said surge absorber being connected to said surge absorber connecting terminal; and an insulating resin gel material being disposed so as to embed said IC chip, said voltage regulator connecting terminal, said surge absorber connecting terminal, said bonding wire, a connection portion between said bonding wire and said voltage regulator connecting terminal, a connection portion between said bonding wire and said IC chip, and a connection portion between said surge absorber and said surge absorber connecting terminal. Adachi et al. disclose conductors insert molded into resin, and a person of ordinary skill can modify the resin so it can embed the IC chip, the voltage regulator connecting terminal, the surge absorber connecting terminal, the bonding wire, the connection portion between said bonding wire and said voltage regulator connecting terminal, a connection portion between said bonding wire and said IC chip, and a connection portion between said surge absorber and said surge absorber connecting terminal for the purpose of ensuring the insulation of the components of the apparatus.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashihara et al., Hilterbrick et al., and Adachi et al. as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Nikawa et al. (US Patent No.: 6291913).

For claim 19, Kashihara et al., Hilterbrick et al. and Adachi et al. teach the claimed invention except for the cover disposed on the resin body to envelop the

housing aperture and the connecting terminals for the voltage regulator and the surge absorber, the resin injection penetrating aperture, and the cover being filled with insulating resin. It would have been obvious to have this configuration, since Nikawa et al. disclose a cover (reference numeral 50, figure 2A) disposed over the voltage control apparatus (see figure 2A), and a person of ordinary skill can modify this technique so that the cover envelops the voltage regulator and the surge absorber for the purpose of insulating the components. It also would have been obvious to have the insulating resin embed the connection portions between the voltage regulator and the voltage regulator connecting terminal and between the surge absorber and the surge absorber connecting terminal, since Adachi et al. disclose a similar configuration where the resin embeds the terminals (see figure 3), and a person of ordinary skill would have been able to provide holes, i.e. resin injection penetrating apertures, also for the purpose of insulating the components and the terminals.

6. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashihara et al. and Hilterbrick et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Nikawa et al. (US Patent No.: 6291913).

For claims 20 and 21, Kashihara et al. and Hilterbrick et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the IC being constituted by an IC chip being sealed in a resin, or the IC chip being mounted to an insulating circuit board. It would have been obvious to have these configurations, since Nikawa et al. disclose a voltage regulator circuit portion having IC chips and being sealed in a resin portion (see column 4, lines 63+), and the

IC chip being mounted on the circuit board (see column 4, lines 63+), and a person of ordinary skill would have been able to apply these techniques in the invention of Kashihara et al. since the invention of Nikawa et al. is also related to automotive alternators with surge absorbers (see Abstract), and these techniques can be applied for design purposes for the IC chip of the voltage regulator.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 23 and 24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: For claim 24, while the prior art of record does show some of the limitations of the invention, the limitations regarding where the components are positioned (slinger, voltage regulator, surge absorber, connector) relative to each other, and the limitation of the voltage regulator, surge absorber, and the connector being aligned proximate to the first circumferential surface of the brush holder and distal the second circumferential surface, clearly defines the structure of the applicant's invention and is found to be a nonobvious improvement over the prior art.

Claim 23 is allowed as explained in the previous action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed December 3, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicants argument that the Examiner did not properly address the obviousness arguments submitted 5/30/08, the Examiner has provided a different rejection of the claims in the action of 9/3/08, and therefore applicant's arguments filed 5/30/08 were moot in view of the new rejection. In response to applicant's argument that Kashihara et al. do not teach or suggest a voltage regulator that is disposed alongside the brush holder and proximate to only the first circumferential side of the brush holder (applicant's Remarks, page 9), Examiner submits to applicant that the voltage regulator of Kashihara et al. overlapping with the brush holder to project beyond the brush holder on both first and second circumferential sides still fulfills the claim limitation of the voltage regulator being disposed "alongside said brush holder on a first circumferential side of said brush holder" as stated in claim 12. Also for claims 15 and 18, it has been explained above that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to modify the conductors of Adachi et al. so that the conductors constitute a voltage regulator connecting terminal and a surge absorber connecting terminal and have them connected to the different components on the axial end for the purpose of ensuring proper connecting configurations, therefore citations of these features are not needed in the prior art references. Also, as disclosed in the previous action, for the structure of applicant's invention, the language of claim 23 wherein the voltage regulator is "disposed proximate to and extending radially from the slinger", the surge absorber is "disposed proximate to and extending radially from the

voltage regulator", the connector is "disposed proximate to and extending radially from the surge absorber", and these components being "distal the second circumferential surface" is found to clearly define the invention better than the term "alongside" the brush holder on a first circumferential side as used in claim 12. Also note the structure of reference EP 669696 A1 Bornet et al. (see figures 2, 3).

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEX W. MOK whose telephone number is (571)272-9084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 Eastern Time, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Quyen P. Leung can be reached on (571) 272-8188. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Quyen Leung/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2834

/A. W. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2834